

"A First Offense."

NATIONAL-Julia Marlowe in "For Bonnie Prince Charlie, 'first half of week. Thursday, "Romola," Friday, "Romeo and Juliet." Saturday, "As You Like It." LAFAYETTE-"Carmen."

ACADEMY-'The Golden Giant." GRAND-Backler-Stock in "Our Boys." KERNAN'S-Bob Fitzsimmons and "Zero." BIJOU-Thursday eveningouly, benefit for Mesors McKee and Wilson.

Theatergoers are faring very wed, thank You. This is indeed one of the briskest Mays which Washington has had the pleasure of watching across the footlights in some time. The theaters have all the activity, at present, of the merry hive so often drawn into metaphor to represent the superlative of up-and-doing. The lethargy of spring has given our play-horses the go-by and we ought to be glad of it. The impression that theaters should be closed when the windows are opened is a sad error. There is nothing like a roaring comedy or a brisk opera to make mortal lapse into forgetfulness of the irkent and the bedewsome perspira-

The hieyelist may preach the wheel and the trite nonsense of going out into the heart of nature and suppling delights from nature's own lips. The Wheelman waxes rhetorical, but he has no business The theater is the place for rhetoric. As for the heart of nature and the rest-bosh. You couldn't reach the heart of nature any place around Washington and get back the same day to save your life, and, what is more precious to the wheelman, your bicycle to boot. Where is there an ancient barn moss-mofed, shambling, and glorying in mellow odor that the ambitious bicycle agent hasn't plastered it with "The fram-tells the name," "Standard of the world, "Perfect in every part," and "Boilt like watch;" ditto every substantial fence which notokens the lusty youman; ditto every rambling meadow cutting perspective into a frame for a trade mark; ditto the bold rocks of every hill crest; ditto omnes, until even our old friend, whom from constant reading in Wayside legends we had come to believe the uni versal infant population does cry for, is nished, obliterated and made to ptterly disappear.

Where then will we find nature? Nature

pure and simple and even, let us admit, a Where, ye vain cyclists, but in the theaters? There's no place left In the District, in hilly old Virginia, or offing Maryland, unpainted to proclais the contury end toy, that can o "rustic exterior" settings of any one of our theaters Don't foolishly pedal you wheel off beyond the boundary in search of honest nature You'll be cheated You'll get the aforementioned labelled article The only genuine thing is in the theaters. checked, come out of the hot air into the fanned, draughted and perfumed cooling stimosphere of the play house. Be cofortable in a inxurious chair, and as sweet music, not your music from street pianos and asthmatic organettes, lolls you celestial equanimity, behold the curtain rise and nature unfold itself, pure, unadulterated unture, trees that are green, sun that warms but tans not, neither does it blind, a purling brook, graduated bills and the atmosphere, artist-made and therefore perfect, overloanging the picture and giving It the purple glow which is the correct thing in late nature and not to be had at any price elsewhere, and. Deo gratias, not a eign in sight!

But, as we were saying before we got on that down grade and the wheel got away from us, the theaters are doing Usually at this time they close up silently and sadly, one by one, and always reminding us of that norsery rhyme about the seven little something-or-others who sat somewhere and something hap-pened to one of them, and then there were six, and what happened to that seventh something or other rhymed with six. Then the sixth disappeared in some artful fashion to thyme with five. And so on till they had all vamcosed. Just so with the ther ters, heretofore. This week the Bijou closes, and now there are six. But that a as far as the game goes this spring. Each of the other six refuses to reduce the number to five, and Manager Whitesell threatens to bob up screnely and restore the number to seven again.

But not in numbers alone, but in quality and bargains are the public well served ional this week ends its winter season, to reopen in June, they say, with a stock. The season goes out in a blaze of glory Julia Marlowe will this week very attractive repertoire of new and standard plays. For the first half of the week she will give "For Rannie Prince Charlie," a play of romansic Scotland New York received it with no claim, the first time the erratic islanders have thus received anything this beautiful woman has done. On Thursday evening it will be a treat to see what kind of a pla has been made of George Eliot's "Romola Then there will be two Shakespearean pro

At the Columbia tomorrow night will be pany, the combination which has been wander of New York managers and which stands undoubtedly as the best list of names in any stock company in the country today. And, bicyclers, they are going to play at summer prices. Great preparations are being made for the opening A fountain will play in the fover benches and shiver in the tee blasts from will open in good, interesting style, with a new piece. It will be one of the gen-nine, hearty, guessing first nights for which Washington is famous. The piece is a

COLUMBIA-Summer Comedy Company | light, modern comedy in three acts, "A First Offense," by Paul Wilstach. It is described by the author as a concatenation of smiles, cackles and uproprious laughter from end to end. But that modest and self-depreciating creature is apt to be mistaken. Still, he may be right. The company have been in the city since

Wednesday and any day since they arrived they could have presented the new comedy, for they rehearsed it for two weeks in New York. A distinguished andience will be present tomorrow night. There is to be a box party of foreign delegates to the Postal Congress, another of Jonne Juniora occupying several boxes, the Co-lumbia Athletic Club sends a Breater party of one hundred, and the line at the window

ciety.
At the Lafayette Grand Opera comes again for another week. And it is welthe Castle Square Opera Company has done and the audiences seemed to prefer it, too Many of the principals of that cast will be on this week in the production of Bizet's beautiful "Carmen" Anna Lichter, Richie Ling, and William Schuster will be the Michela, Jose, and Escamilo, respectively, and Lizzie Macnichol will be heard for the first time in the title role. Doubtless Mr. Wolff, who is the committee on ways and means, has devised a way for adopting this role, usually sung by a soprano, to the low and velvety notes of the Machienol voice. The interpretation will be genuinely interesting. Miss Macnichol has been studying the part for a year, and to its performance she will bring all ber resources of nature and art.

has indicated a generous outpour of se-

Tonight Sousa plays and he plays a new march for the first time The Grand Opera House is in the proces of the open and shut game, or rather, shut and open. Last night the winter season eclipsed in the tenebral shadow of the Black Patti, and tomorrow night the sunuer senson opens with George Buckler's stock company, No. 1. There are only two of them. The other is in Baltimore this week, at Kernan & Rife's other theater. But there is no occasion to crow for both get the No 2 next week. They will alternate during the summer. The first play on is "Our Boys," with vandevile entractes.

The Academy has opened prosperously with the Curamings' Stock Company. The Capital has accorded to Louisville judgment. They displayed excellent discretion in opening with "The Lost Paradise," It is a great play and popular. This week the bill is "The Golden Giant."

Bob Fitzelmmons is the attraction at Kernan's this week. Though there are show accompanying, "Zero," it is believed that the big world champion will overtop them all in interest and the supreme moment in the entertainment will not arrive until Bob steps into the calcium giare and shows how he did it at Carson City that

Mr. Fred Berger, who can tell stori of the early sixties, and yet looks fresh and boyish as a junior manager, Is ho again at Villa Berger, on Thirteenth street Heights, after arduous duties of a season on tour. Mr. Berger's star and brothin-law, young Sol Smith Russell, has had a very successful season, no extraordinary thing for him. He has stuck pretty closbeen so busy, as in past seasons, wearing the mantle of Jefferson. Nat Goodwin has been very busy at that this year. What will these two gentle gentlemen do who some season comes along and they both wish to wear the mantle of Jefferson the same year? There is a way out. Nat might arrange it between them to have some good merchant tailor (see adver tising columns make a duplicate of the keep mum as to which is wearing the real

which the counterfeit. But to return to Mr. Herger. This will se an unusually easy summer for him From now until the middle of August he will have nothing to do but think of ways Several nice offers have been to rest. made to him to manage lady elecationists and direct township lyceums, and one offer included a smumer salary for Sol if he would to that old maid specialty of his on which he prided himself back in '71 before hand-me-downs got too common f him and he got his eye on Jefferson's But all offers have been decline and Mr. Berger will try and worry through the summer on the seventy or eighty thous-and dollars made on last season. He is an enthusiastic wheelman when it isn't to warm and the sun isn't too hot and he feels like it, but a spin in the carriage behind his team is quite to his liking at all times.

His health is very good, now that he ha recovered from a severe shock given him one day last winter in New Orleans, whe he heard that Mr. Russell had drawn \$11 for spending money. The Washington manager is kind, but firm, and he soon put s stop to such levity on the part of his star. In other respects his working season is more or less tedious. There is about \$10,000 to divide every week. He will tell you that all things become monotonous He even became weary of himself as manyear as manager, to double in advance. In this way be got more work out of hin and cut down his own expenses. It necess tated his writing to his printer every week to tell him where to send the posters. Bu as he dictated this letter to a typewrite and gave it to the property man to mail

he spared himself overwork. As before remarked there is for him to do now but rest. There is no worry about a new play, for "The Romance" will open next scason and run almost all the way through. In addition, Mr. Russell will appear in "The Rivals," and a triple bill, made up of "Mr. Valentine's Christmas," the con-densed version of "The Taming of the

Fire." Mr. Berger has arranged for Mr. Russell to open for a run in New York, and then the rest of the country will see him. Annie Russell will be his leading lady in "The Romance" and Hanche Walsh will play Katherine to his Petruchio. Two such leading Women is an unparalleled luxury.

For summer work Mr. Berger has fit-ted for himself a comfortable and handsome lounging room in the basement of his home. The general effect of the room is a dark red taken from a quaint Dutch fireplace in one corner, but in reality affected as a back ground for the pictures which line the walls. At one on is his library, opposite the fireplace, but all other wall space is devoted to portraits. All the famous stars are represented, there are interesting pictures of the Berger family bell ringers, in which once famous company Mr. Berger and Mr. Russell first met; an uncom-mouly amusing collection of Mr. Russell's rejected photographs, and behin the bookcase are some pictures of the lord and master of this den. But these are only to be seen by furtive gland ings while the hospitable host is paring a soothing, withal stimulating, beverage to allay the visitor's fatigoe in climbing the bill,

Everything possible has been done to make "A First Offense" a success, and everything points that way. Not alone has the author been at great pains to make his comedy the very acme and last superlativ of fun, but the players are all uncommonly good artists; they have rehearsed heartily for weeks, they all like the play, and s do the favored few who have peeped a on rehearsals. But, added to this and as an omen to top and cap it all, the powers supernal are on the side of the nev

Early last week Mr. Wilstach came down to the Columbia delighted beyond expres-sion in having dreamed that the piece was a blasted failure. On Thursday morning Manager Frank Metzerott walked into the theater with an all-embracing smile. "On it's all right," said he. Chorus: "Who which, what's all right?" And he replied "'A First Offense.' I dreamt last night that it was a terrible failure." That really ought to settle it. No play in the history of theatricals ever failed after two dreams

had made it a failure.

More eyes than the author's will be riveted on tomorrow night's first night. It is a crucial test of the Washington dramatist. It is in a way his opening wedge. With "A First Offense" the uproarious success which is anticipated, the products of the Washington dramatists will be in demand. At present they are not exactly going begging. Willard Holcomb will have a production of his costome comed; of Washington life of Feau Hickman's day Al Lipman, leading man of the stock, will next year star in a play by Coyne Fletcher and Paul Wlistach hopes to finish two comedies for two stars by the opening of next season. Meantime Mrs. Burnett has her eye on the future for the stage ver sion of "A Lady of Quality," and Philander Johnson has a dramatic secret or two in

Mrs. Fiske gave a matinee in New York the other day for a charitable purpose and it has occasioned considerable com-ment. Well, for several reasons. Firstly, Mrs. Fiske has been going in rather heavily for the tragically emotional and has forced a conviction that she is pre-eminent in that line, and at the matinee she gave a comedy, Sardou's "Divorcons. Secondly, it was a charity performance. tickets were \$1.50 apiece, yet the full house was largely made up of professiona Only genius can draw out, or in, actors and actresses at this or any other price Thirdly, she was supremely satisfying in the part, and not only enticed all the critics into the theater, but she sent them all back to their writing shops to say the most effusive things possible. As one man expressed it, fat Mr. Ford, of the Journal 'I enjoyed it just exactly as much as if I had poid \$3 a sent, and Mrs. Piske were

an Italian with an Italian name."

Indeed, this performance but makes oubly certain the established certainty that Mrs Fiske is the best of the American octresses and only three women in the w rid are to be compared with her-Duse, Dernhardt and Nethersole. She has not that mere quality of talent-her expression is of absolute genius. Nor is again this genius limited to the tragedy of Nora or the deep emotions of Tess; she pos comedy spirit of Cyprienne, and before all, she won her laurels as an acflight, and even rough, comedy parts.

Mrs Fiske is traveling on the up grade in the direction of recognition. She threw down the gauntlet as an emotional actress in a play called "Queen of Liars," and she has persevered in her necessarily slow task of securing New York recognition us a serious and artistic interpreter of serious and artistic roles. But she has it They gave it to her Tess and they repeated it, with the forte pedal on, for Cypricine. It only remains for the whole country to support its country woman. There is no American actress of pre-Julia Marlowe was born in England and Ada Reban in Ireland. Mrs. Fiske, or plain Minnie Maddern, is an Ohio Valley girl.

In connection with the success of the "Divorcons" performance it may be inter-cating to know that one of the successes of Mrs. Fiske's supporting company was Mr Alfred Hickman, who is new a member of the Columbia Stock and will play the role of Charles Bond in "A First Offense this week. He relinquished Little Billee of which he was the original, last year, and since then he has been a valued member of Mrs. Fiske's company.

T. Daniel Frawley was in the city of Friday evening with his entire Pacific coast stock company, en route from New York to the Golden Gate. They were ally here a short while, and Tim, or T. Paniel, was too busy to submit to the regular process of interviewing. "I can only say to you," said he, "as I said to the Mire

"Washington," Mr. Frawley said, "was to work in the office of the Associated Press down there, and to dabble in amateur theatricals outside business bours Wilton Lackage and Charles B. Hanford were members of the same amateur crganization. The stage fever grew upon me with relentless fervor, and at last I made my professional debut as a supernumerary in a production whereof John McCullough was the star. E. H. Sothren was in the east, and I shall never forget the night when news came of the death of his father Mr. McCullough announced the sad tidings before the curtain, and the entire and sincerely the loss of a fellow-man who had done so much to drive away their indicid ual, particular dull cares upon countless merry occasions. The yearning for greater things, for new worlds to conquer, being fast upon me, I gave up my position in 1882 andoameto New York. Those werethe

days when the Mirror was down in Union Square, thou he depter of dramatic gravita-tion, and they were black days for me. For five or mix weary years I struggled and battled with adversity until I came to beheve that I would drive a street car, or do almost ar ything else that would enable me all host aryting the tink wore approaching to live regularly. (Things were approaching a desperate pass when appeared my first good engagement in 'The Old Homestead' at the Fourteenth Street Theater. latter.

with Robson and Crane in 'The Henrietta; with Paniel Fronman's company in riwest Lavender, playing Henry Miller's part; with William B. Crane for three successive years, and then with Nat C. Goodwin. My next exploit was in a small company which went to Canada to play at \$t. Johns, Hallfax, and elsewhere, and it was during this expedition that the notion of a stock company first came to me, and I became con inced that such an organization might be made most successful if every individual member were inspired with enthusiantic interest in the enterprise. After another season in New York at various theaters, I accepte: an engagement in a stock company at Denver, where I had not remained very long. when the managers were offered a house at Salt Lake City. A company of players was dispatched to the Mormon capital and I went along to direct the organization and to 'produce' the plays. The experiment was more or less disastrous; the players mutined; there was trouble with the local management, and the company asked me to take them and to direct a venture of toy own. I had saved up a little rainy-day matter of some \$1,100, and with this the company was purchased from its original

"This was followed by an appearance

"So it was that, when the gurtain went up on my own production, March 18, 1895, at the Marquam Grand Theater, Portland, Ore., my capital consisted of exactly \$60, and no end of confidence and enthusiasm. It had occurred to me that there was a field in the far West for good plays with good paper, presented by capable actors and actresses-plays which already had won their spurs before metropolitan audiences Our first production, "The Senator," did much to establish a favorable impression. and it was followed by all of William H. Crane's successes, many of David Belasco's and similar works, which afforded every opportunity to members of the company. a beautiful Highland beggar girl, and

public audienceafter receiving public mone; owes something to that audience beside the duties of an educator pure and simple unless specifically engaged for that pur pose. He is there to entertain, amuse and divert, as well as to demonstrate a higher purpose to educate; but you will find that the general public will require a vast dea of the former to a mere modicum of the

"I have sharply-defined ideas about educating the public, elevating public taste and all that, and am ready to con tribute whatever I can toward both; at the same time, when I am on a tour that extends from one point of this continent to the furthest antipodal point, and realize that I have an expense account that reaches a good many hundred dollars daily to meet. I take an exceedingly practical view of the case, and come as near as I can to giving the public that which best pleases them, and most surely attracts the greastest

number of people to my concerts.
"It is a sublime thing to help educate the dear people. But it is also a gorgeously satisfying thing to count up your box office receipts during a public entertainment and find that you have taken in enough to pay all fiabilities, and possibly have a snug little sum over. I have noticed always that there is a snap and vivitying energy in a largely-profitable en-tertainment of any sort that are never apparent in a largely-losing affair. I prefer to do business at a profit rather than at a loss. But I notice that everywhere the Sousa concerts are attended by the very best elements of people, which goes to prove the fact that even the most cultured classes take as much pleasure to being amused as do the people of every other class. You will find in every program I present some educational feature, but much more that is pleasing and inspiring."

The new play Julia Marlowe has produced this year-"For Bonnie Prince Charlie' -is one which pleased not only the general public, but met with the high est approval from critical sources. It is a drama partaking somewhat of the roman tic school which is now so much in v but furnishing Miss Marlowe and Mr. Taber with rolls calling for their highest powers

FRED G BERGER, Of this City, Manager of Sol Smith Russell.

Singularly enough, the number thirteen has Angus, her grandfather, a blind old Scotwe. I rather look for it eagerly as a good men. We tegan our first San Francisco gagement, opening the new Columbia Fheater, on the 13th of May, with thirteen in the company, and we played there for hirteen weeks, during which time the city relained us as popular favorites Thir een has been our mascot. The seal of San rancisco's approval augured so much for a future of prosperity that one of the theater wners purchased a half interest in the co pany for three years. The enterprise has trown in power and in scope until I do not elieve there is a better stock organization in this country, and I am desirous that the company should have a New York hearing, being confident that their success of the coast would be duplicated in the Fas But I wish to retain undisputed the terri-tory now covered, and if an Eastern tour should be made our regular season of thirty weeks would be extended probably to fortyfive weeks."

One of the pleasant events of this week will be the appearance on Wednesday even ing of Miss May Howe as Michela in "Carappearance here was when she so delight fully sang Arline with the Metropolitans. and she has since been studying in New

A fonny little incident happened at the rehearsals of "A First Offense" last Fri-Geoffry Stein, as Slavin, hands to Homer Lovejoy (Mr. Lipman) a letter, which all the other characters beg him to open. On account of its relation to anothe racter, Lovejoy does not wish to, and, ever." in fact, dares not open it, until particular stress is brought to bear upon him, and his secret is on the verge of being found out Then he opens it. As he did it he set up a howling laugh Simultaneously from back in the wings came another howl, but it was one of protest. It came from Stein. The letter which he had given Mr Lipman and which had been ripped open and was about to be read was a little piece of personal correspondence between Mr. Stein and-, well, another. new letter was immediately substituted to continue the act.

John Philip Sousa and his band will give their last concert here this senson tonight at the Lafayette. The program is made out by Mr. Sousa, with the evident purpose of graffying a Sunday evening Washington audience. It contains nothing trivial, some things new, and everything is of specific interest. These features cer tainly are sufficient to please an average well-composed audience. Sousa has lo shown that he is a superior tactician in making up programs, and this is one of his secrets of success. Upon this very point e said when last here to the writer:
"The musical director who starts out

with an avowed object to educate the dear public, and makes that his one purpose above all others, and all else subser-vient to it, would do better for himself and every one else to open a public school of musical culture, and keep out of concert tours altogether.'

"He then holds strictly to this inspired purpose, and does not go salling along upon putilic notice and public patronage under false prefenses. I take it that a director who undertakes to entertain a

figured largely in my luck, and now, in-stead of regarding it with superstitions Stuart uprising, when Prince Charles Ed-The play was written in French and pro-

duced at the Odeon Theater in Paris a dozen years ago. It was translated and adapted by Mr. J. I C. Clarke specially for Miss Marlowe and Mr. Taber, and in the two principal characters they are said to have distinct and brilliant lifts. They will also be seen here in "Romola" play founded on George Eliot's striking quarantine story, which has been highly praised for itsliterary and dramatic worth The productions which they have made spearcan dramas to their repertoire, are said to exceed in splendor, completen and fidelity to artistic requirements any in which they have hitherto been see Ed. O'Connor, theformer Washington boy

whose pronounced hit in "Side Tracked" bere at the Bijou some weeks ago was a mat-ter of favorable comment, has been engaged by Wilton Lackage for a comedy role in "King and Player," the new play to be produced by that star next season

NEW PLAY BILLS.

Sousa tonight gives his last concert of the season at the Lafayette. That an nouncement will be enough for most peo nie Others will be interested in knowing that tonight's program has some particularly attractive features. One of then is the first performance of the new two-step by the March King, "Stars and Stripes For

To make this last concert still more no table, Mr. Sousa, who is now firmly established as the manager of his own busiiess enterprises, has specially engaged two new soloists. Of these, Miss Leontine Gaertner, the 'cellist, is already known here as a consummate artist. Miss Zora Gladys Horlocker, contralto, comes with the highest reputation.

Sousa is the past grand master in the art of program making, and the musical menu he has arranged for the delectation of his Washington admirers this evening is a model in every respect.

The engagement of Julia Marlowe and Robert Taber begins at the New National Theater tomorrow evening, in "For Bonnie Prince Charlie," the play which they produced with such brilliant success at Wallack's Theater last winter and which ran there for six weeks. The central character of the piece is a Scotch girl, poor and lowly, but beautiful, whose love for her prince is like idolatry and whose de-votion to her country is such as a fanatic has for his religion; who would give he life and does sacrifice her good name for Scotland and her prince

During the engagement Miss Marlowe will also produce "Romola," a play writ-ten by Flwyn A. Berron, founded on George Eliot's povel. This noble and impressiv ook contains characters and incidents which lend themselves readily to dramatic to be as powerful and interesting as the

A careful and elaborate production of 'Romeo and Juliet' will also be given The production has every where been praise

ities. They will also give "As You Like It," presenting Miss Marlowe as Rosalind, a role in which she has now perhaps no rival on the English-speaking stage. The order in which the plays will be produced is a follows: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday matines. "For Bonnie Prince Charlie." Thursday evening, "Romed and Juliet," Priday evening, "Romela;" Saturday evening, "As You Like It."

Tomorrow night the Columbia Stock Company opens their season at the pretty F street theater, producing for the first time on any stage a new comedy by Paol Wilstach. The piece is written to be a ripple of fun through its three acts, and it is identified as "A First Offense." The Columbia tomorrow night will display its new fountain, its rustic foyer seats and ice blast cooling apparatus. The company is remarkably strong, and its strength will show up well in "A First Offense." The sale for the week has already been unusually large. A theater party of postal congress delegates, over 100 Columbia Athletic clubraen, and four boxes of Jonnie Juniors will be present.

The sale of seats for the opera "Carmen," at the Lafayette Square this week, proves beyond a doubt that this work of Bixet's is among the most popular of operas. We have had a number of Carmens here this season, but the part as sung by Miss Lizzie Macnichol possesses many original features. Miss Macnichol regards the gypsy as "a cold-hearted, hot-blooded young woman, who is not especially critical about the quality or quantity of her lovers." She also says that the actress who plays this part must temper her realism must never be coarse, but always brilliant This coquettish and cattish beroine has been more or less of a favorite among singers who are also actresses, for she has the fascination of a nugnetic personality and a buman interest for the audience.

The music of "Carmen" is of the true

Spanish type, which is further emphasized in one of the choruses in the second act, by the accompaniment of castanets. It is in this act, too, that Escamillo sings the favorite Toreador song. The chema of street boys and that of cigarette girls,-in the first act, is also noteworthy. The enic production is thoroughly satisfactory. 'Carmen" should be one of the most no tableeventsofthesummer season. Wednes-day evening Miss Mary Helen Howe will appear in the character of Michaela.

At the Academy of Music the Cummings' Stock Company enter upon their second week with a production of Clay M. Greene's romance, 'The Golden Gant,"
with the brightest prospects ahead of them in consequence of the splendid perform ance given by this company during their opening week. Although this company was much heralded and bore the indorsement of the Louisville press, Washington had to see for itself, and it has seen. On all sides nothing but praise is heard of their work. The company has placed itself in popular favor at once. The best proof of this is the advance sale of seats for next week. No better company and performance has been seen at the Academy in some time than that given by this company the past week. "The Golden Giant" should pr nteresting on account of its being practically new to Washington, together with the fact that this company has proved itself one of exceptional merit and worthy of the patronage of our theater-goers.

The Grand Opera House comes into hae tomorrow night with a company to compete for summer honors. George Buckler resumes the direction of the summer stock at this house, and he brings to his direction a new system which might work well. He has two complete stock companies. One plays one week here, while he other is in Baltimore, and then they alternate, giving each two weeks to prepare a new play, yet changing the weekly. The bill this week is "Our Boys," an ever deligated. an ever delightful comedy. There will also be a vaudeville bill headed by X-Ray Bixley.

What will probably be the strongest array of vandeville talent ever seen he one theater will appear at the Bijou on text Thursday evening on the occasion of the benefit to Messrs, A. V. McKee and A. S. Wilson. Manager Whiteseli has spent some weeks on the program, with the rein town this week will participate. The Columbia, Kernan's and the Academy will be represented in the entertainment, and X-Ray Bixley, the originator of the musical tramp act, will be the contribution of the

Miss Bertha Wood, a charming singer and actress here with the Castle Square Garden Opera Company, will come from the Lafayette. A number of other theatri cat people will also do turns. Channing L. L. Pollock and the same cast that gar 'The Stepping Stones' last year at the Grand will repeat the piece. Mark O. will appear as Joseph, while the author, Mr. Pollock, will present a new character version of the quiet, emotional role of produced West since seen here, and the bough edges have been worn off. Senis

Manager Kernan will present an unusually strong attraction at the Lyceum next week, the bright, particular feature of which will be the appearance at every performance of the undisputed enampion of the world, Pob-Fitzanomens, who will appear in an accurate reproduction of the Carson City fight, illustrating particularly the terrible blow with which he defeated James J. Cochett The champton will also be seen in a screp tific exhibition of bag punching. In junction with the above the attraction will be Oppenhelmer's superb spectacle, "Zero The electrical climax is said to be the

most elaborate finale ever attempted. An excellent array of specialties are introduced during the action of the burlesque including Miss Carrie Monroe, in dance phantasmagoria; Madden and Curren, the Celuc wits; Topac and Steele, the judge and the major; Harry LeClair, in new and original character impersonations, and Mile. Theo, the beautiful and accomplished musicularitist. The usual prices will prevail and matiness will be Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Two Weeks More Biograph.

The Biograph will close its long and

benomenally successful run at Willard Hall on Sunday night, May 29th. This will mark the 584th exhibition of this mar velous invention. This is the last week but one, after which time the season will close and Washingtonians will not have another opportunity of witnessing the wenderful effects of a combination of electricity and photography. During almost eight m run of the Biograph tens of thousands have been instructed, interested, and amused has been a most popular amusement demonstrated by the fact that has enjoyed a liberal patronage from the public and has run in the city for nearly eight months; a record that has never yet been equaled in the amusement world of this city. Interest in it has been on the ncrease since the first day the exhibitions began. During its run in the city noward of twenty benefits have been give herches and charitable institutions, the financial success of which astonished even The present management have endeavored in every possible manner to keep new views before the public and it is with considerable gratification that it can anrounce that success has crowned its efforts. New views will be added weekly during the short remaining stay. A number of new views will be placed on exhibition

for the first time tonight at 8:15. The cavalry views which were added to the program last week have proven to be of great popularity and will be kept on exhibition for a short time longer. The work of the horses and men in these views is shown with a realism that is at times even startling. The houseless fire engine and the pillow fight, views that have attracted the pillow fight, views that have attracted considerable attention, will also be among the numbers on this week's program. The First Presbyterian Church (Dr. Talmage's) will be given a benefit on Monday, and it is the hope of the ladies to get the eminent divine to announce the views at one of the aviation. the exhibitions. The exhibitions during the remaining two weeks will be daily at 2:30, 4:30, and 8:15 p. m. with a special exhibition Sunday evening at 8:15.

ATRICTICS FOR GIRLS.

New York Gymnastic Teacher Gives His Experience.

I believe after much experience that young girls, if the proper example and facilities are afforded them, come to love athletic sports as well as boys. I also believe that they can participate in nearly every masculine sport, deriving as much benefit as do boys. Physical strength in girls is quite as desirable as it is in boys, and is a subject to which their mothers should give serious attention. Of course the average girl cannot be expected to develop quite the strength of a boy of her own age. But I have found that with the excep-tion of the very heaviest work in the gym-....... girls of fifteen to nineteen years of age can take every exercise to which boys of that age are accustomed. One of the most marked results achieved in the gynmastic and outdoor work of the girls in Ade, phi Academy is the equalization of

their muscular development.

Thus, upon taking the measurements of a new girl, it has frequently been found that her right arm and hand, as well as the muscles of the right side of her body, are unduly developed from tennis playing.

Moderate but systematic exercise at handball and basketball and with the apparatus countersets this effect, bringing the left side up to the standard of the right. Similarly many girls are left-handed, and in their case attention is directed to the right

Young girls under twelve years of age wear short dresses and are not bothered with long skirts, so that in exercising they may wear their ordinary clothes the long skirts usually worn by girls of from fifteen to nineteen years of age are a decided impediment to freedom of action of the limbs.

As one branch of athletic work, I am an earnest advocate of the bicycle for girls. I ride a wheel myself and nearly all my pupils do likewise, the youngest knowing how to ride a wheel even when they do not own one. After much observation of the effects of bacycling on girls, I have yet to find a serious objection to the sport. Like all athietic sports for girls, it is good for them if indulged in in moderation. I would earnestly recommend it to mothers designed of having strong, healthy daughters that they see to it that they begin exercising under a gymnastic teacher at an early age. In the case of a girl of, say, fifteen years of age, beginning athietic exercise, who has never before received instruction at the start than it is for a boy of the same age.

Unless she commences with the mildest and she is apt to become prejudiced ngainst all sports. It is necessary to arouse the interest of the pupils in the work. Girls are likely to be timid when first brought into the gymnasium. I have pointed out to several novices the uses of the different ap-paratus, but could not induce them to try the exercise in the presence of anybody

But going out leaving these girls alone in the gynastum, I have seen them try one kind of exercise after another. Their curiosity had first to be aroused and this timidity could only be overcome by familiarising them with the gymnasium and wib the sight of their classmates at work. A good healthy girl, when the novelty has once worn off and she has indulged in rough and tumble work in the athle field with her girl friends, is as eager for another game as any boy.

In the Adelphi Academy athletic work is compulsory among the girls up to fif-teen years of age. After that it is op-tional. But all of those who have taken the exercise before fifteen years of age inue it steadily after that from pure

delight and zeal. The changes in the physique and general health of girls which this sort of exercise effects are remarkable. Young girls grow so rapidly that the ordinary physical measurements taken at big college gymna-siums are not of much use to the teachers in their case, except as a guide to judi vidual characteristics. But the appetite, the complexion, the grace and agility and mental alertness are sore indices to the physical condition, and with the proper

cided improvement.

The most popular games imong the girls now are handbull and baskethall. The former is one of the best games for a uniform development of both sides of the body, exercise both equally, legs and arms alike, and we have two handball courts One of the advantages of basketball for a large school is that there are five on each side, so that ten girls can be in the at one time. My girls exercise in the boy's gymnasium, and they do all kinds of ork there, except the very heaviest. New York Journal

Dyspepsia in the Air.

Mrs. Mulcahey-Phwat be yez afther doin' there, Timmy Mulcahey? Timmy Mulcahey-Smellin' av the cook-

in' mither! 0-0-0-0-0h! but it's good! Mrs. Mulcahey (angrily)-Coom right away from ther this minite! Don't yez know they be afther makin' thim party deforgrasses an' all thim kind av t'inge? Does ye want ter git dyspepsis an' gout, an' be afther havin' me pay a big doct ber's

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